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January 8, 2002

Box: NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Serial Number: None (Parent App. No. 09/610,645)
Applicant: LAUBE, KIM
Filing Date: Herewith
Group Art Unit: 3724
Examiner: WATTS, DOUGLAS
For: DISPOSABLE CUTTING HEAD FOR CLIPPERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The following preliminary amendment is submitted as part of this filing of a divisional application filed herewith. The parent application is for Patent Application No. 09/610,645 filed on 06-27-00.

Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments to the application. This amendment also responds to the Examiner Office Action, Paper No. 04 dated 10-11-01, related to the Parent Application No. 09/610,645.

AMENDMENTS

In the Specifications:

Please delete the paragraph on page 1, after the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" and before the paragraph " 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION."

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, after the title "DISPOSABLE CUTTING HEAD FOR CLIPPERS" and before the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION".

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/610,645 that is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Applications No's. 09/457,454 and 09/222,049. Application Serial No. 09/610,645 is pending.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 through 30 and 36 through 38 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

REMARKS

In the Examiner's Office Action, Paper No. 04 dated 10-11-01, claim 33 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Andis '616. The examiner has noted that the upper portion of the plate, i.e., the portion with holes the "back plate".

Claim 33 of the instant application claims a comb element with a plurality of comb teeth having a groove notch for engagement with a front edge of the cutting teeth of a clipper. The Andis '616 patent discloses a blade carrier 26 that at the front portion resembles a comb for the clipper cutting teeth. However, the blade carrier is attached by means of screws and is intended to support the cutting teeth. The disclosed device will not work without the blade carrier attached. In addition the blade carrier does not have a notch that engages the blade cutting teeth.

Based on the claim limitation of claim 33 that presents a comb element with a groove notch in the comb teeth attachable to cutting teeth of a clipper, it is believed the blade carrier feature of the Andis '616 patent is distinguished and there is no indication of anticipation of the claimed comb structure.

Claim 34 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andis '616. Claim 34 is now based on what is believed to be an allowable claim and therefore should be allowed.

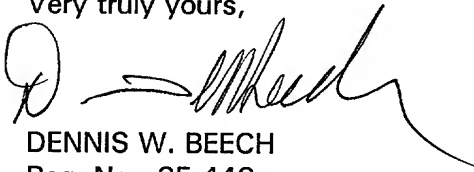
Claim 35 has been objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim. Based on the remarks concerning claim 33, it is believed claim 35 is now based on an allowable claim and therefore should be allowed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

No additional fee for claims is seen to be required.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. Beech", written over a horizontal line.

DENNIS W. BEECH
Reg. No.: 35,443

DWB/ab

Attachments: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 1, after the heading 'BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" and before the paragraph "1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION" has been deleted.

A paragraph has been added on page 1, after the title "DISPOSABLE CUTTING HEAD FOR CLIPPERS" and before the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION".

In the Claims:

Claims 1 through 30 and 36 through 38 have been canceled.